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Conversations Militaires. A conversation book for soldiers, with notes and vocabulary, by E. E. Patton. D. C. Heath & Co., 1918. 16mo. VI + 85 pp. 40 cents.

There are seventeen of these military conversations followed in each case by notes giving explanations and additional vocabulary, and covering the most important phases of the American soldier's life in France. The most admirable feature of the book is the excellent quality of French employed. The French lieutenant Jean J. Labat, who writes a short preface, tells us the language is good, and to the American teacher, as well, the character of the phrases reveals them as real French and not such stuff as the most of our conversation manuals are made of. But it is just this virtue which will prevent the book's being widely used in our colleges at least. For the ordinary S. A. T. C. student, if I may generalize from my experience at the University of Chicago, it would be a question simply of learning the conversations by heart and being fitted to speak that much and no more. The notes do not add words enough, verbs enough, to admit of the construction of many additional sentences by the student. He must already have a more considerable knowledge of French than most of our students, in the training corps, possess. And after all, what most of our soldiers need in the way of French, is just what the rest of us need in France—the ability to ask for ordinary things, to reply to ordinary questions; in short, to carry on the ordinary conversations.

On the other hand, for liaison officers between French and American commands, the book is excellent, both as to situations foreseen and phrases chosen. It will also be valuable as a dictionary of reference to those of us at home who have met and are meeting every day in the French books about the war, technical expressions which we do not know the exact equivalent for, and which we are glad to find explained.

In a book of such excellence, it may seem invidious to pick out small faults, but I cannot help wondering why the author every now and then renders the French pronunciation of some word by English equivalents, though the student is evidently expected to be able to pronounce French, since there is no systematic attempt at phonetics. Moreover, the English equivalent does not usually give the French pronunciation. For *civil*, *see-veel* might pass (p. 28), but *gay* does not render *gué* (p. 20); *komplo*, *complot* (p. 29); *pye*, *paille* (p. 38); nor *swee*, *suit* and so on in instances too numerous to note in this short review.

The proof-reading is good. I note only one error—*carbrurateur* for *carburateur* (p. 61).

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Goethes Hermann und Dorothea, with a life of the author in German, appendices, German exercises, questions, notes, and vocabulary by Julianne A. Roller. Boston, Allyn and Bacon, 1917. XXX + 302 + 107 pp.

Outwardly this edition presents a most attractive appearance. The press-work is exceptionally good and in the way of illustrations there are not only the